

ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ  
13TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA  
  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT, AND PIPELINES  
WATER, RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3813

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
423 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-6111  
FAX: (202) 225-0611  
  
DISTRICT OFFICE:  
7219 FRANKFORD AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136  
TEL: (215) 335-3355  
FAX: (215) 333-4508  
  
706 WEST AVENUE  
JENKINTOWN, PA 19046  
TEL: (215) 517-6572  
FAX: (215) 517-6575  
  
[www.house.gov/schwartz](http://www.house.gov/schwartz)

## **THE FEDERAL BUDGET: REFLECTING OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

Representative Schwartz believes that the federal government's budget is a document that reflects our nation's priorities. The annual process of developing the federal budget is an important opportunity to discuss our values as a nation. Most significantly, the federal budget should be guided by the concerns of American families, and that it should address federal obligations without passing on costs to state and local governments. From her seat on the House Budget Committee, Representative Schwartz is working to ensure that the government lives within its means and balances its budget.

The budget policies of the President and the majority in Congress have added nearly \$3.5 trillion to our national debt since 2001 – while also failing to meet the nation's priorities. This additional debt, which continues to accumulate at the rate of one million dollars a minute, will make it harder and harder for our nation to meet our current or future needs. Representative Schwartz has been an outspoken opponent of these borrow and spend gimmicks, and is working to return the government to a path of fiscal discipline so that future generations are not saddled with debt, or left to inherit a nation that has failed to live up its responsibilities.

### **RESTORING OUR BUDGET TO BALANCE**

During the years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, the federal budgets crafted by the President and the Republican majority in Congress produced the four largest deficits in our nation's history. According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the government spent an average of \$382 billion more than the revenues it took in during those four years.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has warned that if these large budget deficits are not addressed, "at some point these deficits would cause the economy to stagnate or worse."

Representative Schwartz believes that the first step to balancing the federal government's checkbook is to restore the budget rules that helped lead to surpluses in the late 1990s. In particular, Representative Schwartz believes that all proposals affecting the budget should be fully accounted for. This means that new spending or tax cuts should be accompanied by either a cut in other spending or an increase in other federal revenues of equal value.

Just as American families work hard to make ends meet, Representative Schwartz believes that the government must do the same and work to ensure we have the revenues to meet our obligations.

## **HONEST BUDGETING**

Representative Schwartz believes that the federal budget must account for all expenditures likely to be incurred in the near future. She has opposed budgets proposed by President Bush and the majority in Congress because they have consistently omitted the full cost of major initiatives – such as the War in Iraq, Medicare drug coverage, and the recovery efforts due to hurricane Katrina. Ultimately, honest budgeting requires the majority in Congress – regardless of party affiliation – to fully account for the cost of their major agenda items.

Additionally, Representative Schwartz believes we must protect the Social Security Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was designed to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security – not to fund additional spending or tax cuts. However, the borrow and spend policies of President Bush and the majority in Congress have set us on a course to spend every penny of the Social Security surplus, every year, for the next ten years and beyond.

## **PAYING DOWN THE DEBT**

The current national debt of \$8.4 trillion represents a significant threat to our nation's future.

The national debt is so significant that the federal government is spending more each year on the interest on the debt than its combined investment in education, homeland security and veterans' health care. Not only is this unsustainable, it is immoral to leave this massive debt burden on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren. By continuing to borrow vast sums of money from foreign nations – whether from our key allies, like Japan or the United Kingdom, or from nations with whom we have a more delicate relationship, like China – we may also weaken our economic and diplomatic authority.

Just as American families are working hard to manage their finances, Representative Schwartz believes that the nation must begin to pay down its debt and return to a path of financial independence and stability.